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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Stefan HACK et al.

Application No.: 09/987,356

Filed: November 14, 2001

For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

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)
) Group Art Unit: 2163
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) Examiner: Unassigned
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including a copy of the identified book, are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

English translations of a portion of each of the two non-English documents are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

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documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

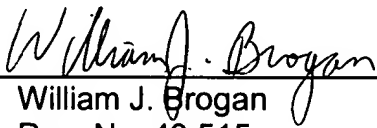
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

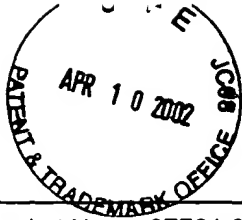
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: April 10, 2002

By: 
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

OMB No. 0651-0011

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Atty. Docket No. 07781.0013-0100	Appln. No. 09/987,356
Applicant Stefan HACK, et al.	
Filing Date November 14, 2001	Group: 2163

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,884,287	March 16, 1999	Michael Edesess	705	36	April 11, 1997
	6,119,149	Sept. 12, 2000	Ranjit N. Notani	709	205	June 5, 1998

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Sabatina Scelza, "Informationstechnologische Unterstützung des Supply Chain Management," (Dissertation, J. W. Goethe Univ., 13 August 1999)
	A. W. Scheer, "Business Process Engineering," (Springer-Verlag, 2 nd edition, 1994)
	Thomas Hess/Leo Brecht, "State of the Art des Business Process Redesign - Darstellung unde Vergleich bestehender Methoden," (Gabler Jan. 1995)

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce